REMARKS

Support for the anhydrides and imides recited in Claim 1 is found in page 7, line 27. The 30 parts by weight recited as the upper limit of the range of glass fibers finds support in page 2, line 16 and the lower limit, 9.85 pbw is supported in Example 2 in page 17: the exemplified 11 parts by weight is normalized as 11/111.62 x 100 is 9.85 pbw relative to 100 parts by weight of the total composition. The 20 parts by weight recited in Claim 5 is supported in page 2, line 16. Support for the silicone acrylate graft rubber recited in newly introduced Claim 11 is found in page 8, lines 21 et seq.

The claimed invention is directed to a molding composition consisting of (A) a homopolycarbonate and/or polyester carbonate, (B) a specifically structured rubber-free (co)polymer, (C) a silicone acrylate graft rubber, (D) glass fibers and (E) optional conventional additives. The inventive composition is characterized by its improved thermal stability.

The parent application faced rejection over J11349796 (herein Watanabe) in view of U.S. Patent 6,160,443 (Nodera) or U.S. Patent 5,807,914 (Obayashi). In accordance with Examiner-supplied English language machine-translation of Watanabe, the referenced composition contains polycarbonate, "a polymer composed of an aromatic alkenyl compound, a cyanided vinyl compound and the like" and a presently relevant graft copolymer. Among its attributes the composition is said to be "excellent in fluidity".

Nodera disclosed a flame retardant, antistatic composition containing polycarbonate, a flame retarding agent, inorganic filler (including glass fibers) and an antistatic agent. Among its optional components Nodera includes, component (B) styrenic resin and component (G) a "rubber-like elastomer".

Component (B) embraces rubber-free (e.g. SAN) and rubber-containing (e.g. ABS) species. Component (G) embraces compounds having core/shell structure where the rubber core is polybutadiene rubber and the shell is of a rigid resin material e.g. SAN (column 9, line 33 to column 10, line 39).

The combined disclosures of Watanabe with Nodera cannot reasonably be seen as describing or suggesting the presently claimed composition. It will first be noted since the "excellent fluidity" of Watanabe's composition is certain to be degraded the requisite incentive to thus modify Watanabe by including Nodera's glass fibers is missing.

Second, the working examples in the application – page 17 – show the advantageous thermal aging properties, attributed to SAN combined with the claimed silicone acrylate graft rubber over its combination with ABS. Since Nodera's "polymer" (Component B) embraces both rubber-free and rubber-containing species (column 4, lines 61-65) and since there is nothing to direct the reader to select one over the other, Applicants assert the rejection to be predicated in impermissible hindsight.

Third, Metablen 2001S, a specie within the presently claimed component C, represents a required component (B) in Watanabe's composition and is merely a specie within Nodera's optional component G (column 9 lines29 and 52). The mere mention of Metablen 2001 in unrelated documents cannot be reasonably taken as suggesting their combination in the context of rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103.

Obayashi disclosed a glass fiber reinforced polycarbonate composition that contains polycarbonate, a polycarbonate oligomer, glass fibers and a presently relevant silicone acrylate graft rubber copolymer.

Watanabe has been discussed above.

Combining the components of Watanabe with Obayashi results in a composition that contains glass fibers and an aromatic polycarbonate oligomer. As was discussed above the incorporation of glass fibers is certain to degrade the excellent flowability of Watanabe's composition and provide a disincentive to do so. The inclusion of polycarbonate oligomer is contrary to the claimed composition that effectively excludes unnamed components.

Claims in the parent application also faced rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over JP08269314 (Akihiro) in view of Nodera or Obayashi.

Akihiro disclosed a blend having good weather resistance and cold impact resistance of polycarbonate, (meth)acrylic resin and a presently relevant composite graft copolymer that contains polyorganosiloxane. As presently claimed component B avoids Akihiro.

Nodera or Obayashi have been discussed above. Nothing in combination of Akihiro with either of the secondary documents renders obvious the invention as presently claimed.

An early examination on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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